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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

John B. Townsend II, 202/586-5806

Secretary Richardson Announces Grants To Help  
Communities Install More Solar Roofs

## **Nation Reaches Major Milestone in Building Solar Roofs**

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson today announced that the Department of Energy is awarding \$630,000 in grants to state and local partnerships to help install a million solar roofs on buildings across the nation by 2010. These grants will be awarded to 17 entities in 13 states.

"This is a gift to America on the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, Consumers want affordable clean-energy options that will help them save money and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create new high tech, high wage American jobs," said Secretary Richardson. "Renewables, such as solar energy, are power sources that are ready now and have great promise for the future."

Secretary Richardson also announced the Energy Department has obtained a million preliminary pledges to install solar energy systems as a result of the President's Million Solar Roofs Initiative (MSRI). The Secretary spoke today in Washington at the annual meeting of the Solar Energy Industries Association.

The grants awarded to MSRI partnerships will promote the installation of solar energy systems in Alaska; American Samoa; Arizona; San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas; the

islands of Hawaii and Kauai; Oregon; Puerto Rico; Little Rock; Chicago; Colorado; Texas; Long Island, N.Y.; Boston, Mass., New Hampshire, Newton, Mass; and Virginia.

Secretary Richardson also announced seven new MSRI partners, boosting the total number of partnerships to 47 and the number of pledges to build solar roofs to more than a million. The new partnerships are Little Rock; Alaska; Puerto Rico; Long Island; Iowa; Virginia and Newton, Mass. the new partnerships will combine the DOE grants with private funds, allowing them to conduct a variety of activities ranging from working with local and regional home builders to construct solar roofs on new homes to working with local lending institutions to develop financing options.

Other partnership activities include developing and setting up marketing and consumer education plans and working with local officials to develop standard building codes and practices for solar installations. Funds also will be used to develop training programs for inspectors and installers.

President Clinton announced the Million Solar Roofs Initiative during a speech before the United Nations Session on Environment and Development in June 1997. Under the program, the Energy Department is establishing partnerships with business, government and community-based organizations at the local, regional and national levels to promote the development of solar energy.